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Committee for Programme and Coordination
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Agenda item 8
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-fourth session

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Draft report

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007
Part two: biennial programme plan

(Item 3 (b))

Programme 14
Economic and social development in Africa

1. At its 11th meeting, on 16 June 2004, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 14, Economic and social development in Africa, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/59/6 (Prog. 14)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 14 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Satisfaction was expressed with the lucid, detailed and comprehensive presentation of the programme of work. The focus of programme 14 on critical interventions aimed at reversing the current conditions in Africa and putting African countries on a path of sustainable development was welcomed. Yet another view expressed scepticism on the relevance of the biennial programme plan and suggested its further review at a possible resumed session of the Committee.

4. Satisfaction was expressed with the progress that the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has made to align the overall objective of its programme with the goals and priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and

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the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992. It was noted with appreciation that the review conducted by ECA after the adoption of NEPAD by the African Union had culminated in the restructuring of the programme by consolidating subprogrammes and the creation of a new one, which were interdependent and complimentary and also resulted in reorientation of the work programme to reflect the goals of NEPAD. The view was expressed that ECA would play a key role in fulfilling NEPAD agenda.

5. The view was also expressed that, in the overall orientation, the mainstreaming into national policies of all components of sustainable development in Africa, including environment, economic and social areas and human resources development, should be properly reflected, namely in paragraph 14.4 (c) and (f).

6. The view was expressed that while ECA had received the additional and very important mandate for overseeing coordination and collaboration concerning NEPAD among the entities of the United Nations at the regional level, it was also important that the Commission collaborate with regional organizations, regional economic communities and national organizations. The efforts to achieve coherence between global and regional priorities and to avoid duplication were welcomed. It was emphasized that more attention should be given to coordination with other United Nations entities, especially other regional commissions, while the view was expressed that the various partners of ECA should be mentioned in paragraph 14.8.

7. The view was expressed that some objectives and expected accomplishments were too broad, ambitious, formulated well beyond the ECA capacities, and should be modified to be clearer, more realistic and more specific.

8. The view was expressed that the indicators of achievement were too general and abstract, without tangible targets, baseline and performance measures, and did not have any links either to the 2002-2003 programme performance report or to the 2004-2005 programme budget, and should be amended to be more precise and reconciled with the scope of expected accomplishments and strategies. A question was raised on some of the challenges faced by ECA in implementing result-based budgeting.

9. The view was also expressed that unless essential resources were provided to NEPAD the entire programme would not be effectively implemented.

10. It was emphasized that vigorous action to address the challenge of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other infectious diseases formed an essential component of the work of the Commission. Focus on HIV/AIDS and governance in Africa in several subprogrammes was welcomed. The view was expressed that the outcome of the high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS held in September 2003 in New York should be mentioned in the programme.

11. The view was expressed that while the main emphasis was placed on reduction of poverty, the programme should also focus on resource mobilization and direct investment.

12. The view was expressed that, under subprogramme 2, in "Objective of the Organization", the words "nexus of food security, population, human settlements, natural resources and the environment" should be replaced with the words

"sustainable development, including human resources development". The view was expressed that the strategy and indicators of achievement under this subprogramme could also refer to the organization by ECA of regional implementation meetings for follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The view was also expressed that the expected accomplishments under subprogramme 2 should be amended to include a reference to the application of science and technology, which was reflected in paragraph 14.10 (c) of the strategy.

13. The view was also expressed that, under subprogramme 5, the strategy should include, besides air transport, the reference to equally important areas in the transport sector.

14. The view was expressed that, under subprogramme 6, the strategy should also reflect the important role of the African Centre for Gender and Development in assisting the African Union and African regional organizations in the implementation of NEPAD, developing their respective gender policy frameworks and mainstreaming a gender perspective into their policies and programmes.

15. The role of ECA in the work of the Committee for Peace and Development, which has been mandated to ensure the participation of women in peace talks and all conflict management and peacekeeping mechanisms, was stressed, and ECA was encouraged to continue to focus on this area.

Conclusions and recommendations

16. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 14, Economic and social development in Africa, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Throughout the programme, the words "the Millennium Development Goals" should be replaced with the words "internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992".

The Committee also recommended that the Commission, in the implementation of programme 14, take into account the special needs of the least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries in Africa.

Subprogramme 1

Indicator of achievement (b)

After the words "by national statistical offices", add the words "which have been implemented for tracking progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals".

Expected accomplishment of the Secretariat (b) and Indicator of achievement (b)

Replace the words "the Millennium Development Goals" with the words "internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992".

Subprogramme 2

Expected accomplishment of the Secretariat (a)

After the words "food security", add the words "science and technology".

Paragraph 14.11

At the end of the paragraph, add the words "and organizing regional implementation meetings for follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development".

Subprogramme 4

Objective of the Organization

Replace the word "sustain" with the words "further strengthen".

Subprogramme 6

Paragraph 14.15 (c)

At the end of the subparagraph, add the words "conflict resolution and peace processes".